

Have you ever left a protest feeling despair? Did you get the impression that it accomplished nothing? Did it feel performative? Do you feel like it was just a photo op for some giant nonprofit to use for PR? Did those jerks in the yellow vests herding protestors come off like wannabe cops? It may please you to know there are more ways to protest than just a parade! Here are the historical examples of alternative means of protest.

I Hate a Parade!



Historical alternative performative protests

*Legal disclaimer: This is for historic informational purposes only. This is not intended to advocate for illegal behavior, or inferred illegal super cool activities.

The classic! Black Bloc is when a very large group get together dressed in all black to protect their identities. It gives anonymity and helps fight against surveillance. Each Bloc is different. At the WTO protests in '99, Black Bloc groups would form "flying squadrons" who would smash windows to get the police to back off of the other groups and chase them instead. This hit and run tactic was used to keep the police in disarray, taking the pressure off demonstrators.



Activism has been more than just parades throughout history! In the fight against fascism and capitalism, we need creativity as much as anything else. Here are some great resources for organization.

Documentaries you should watch:
 Showdown in Seattle, Deep Dish TV, 1999
 Revolving in Prague- IMF protests, Undercuts, 2000

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In Italy, these all white clad activists would be donning DIY armor under those white overalls. Their armor could be tires, life preservers, or anything that could take a blow. They were at the front of any protest, ready to take a literal beating. At the 2000 Praha IMF protests, Disobbedienti were at the front lines with tires, polls, inflatables, and anything they had to soften the blows from the police.



Up until recently, activists would congregate at a welcome center prior to a demonstration. There, they would give training to newbies, provide food and lodging, and have a place to rest up in after a demo. As rents have skyrocketed and activist spaces have dwindled, welcome centers are slowly becoming a thing of the past. They still serve a vital role in organizing and training. If all of the above makes you feel a little sheepish, consider hosting a welcome center for an action.

The IAA were hactivists who used their creativity and scientific knowhow to build gadgets and setup technological means of subverting the surveillance state. Some of their inventions included the Twitter predecessor TXTMob, i-See – a map of surveillance cameras in NYC, and various "crime-bots" that could graffiti roads and disperse propaganda.

www.appliedautonomy.com/ib.html

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Biotic Baking Brigade



Ever seen the pie-in-the-face gag? Well, these brave souls literally would pie businessmen and politicians. The symbolic act of inflicting humiliation left their targets seething in the media, and there is nothing funnier than watching someone try to convince the public that getting pied is the equivalent of an assassination attempt.